

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELGRA 03371 311036Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----311036Z 002750 /20
R 270938Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 778

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 3371

EXDIS

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: MASS YO
SUBJ: POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MARK 44 SALE TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: BELGRADE 3367

1. AS ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY'S AND EMBASSY NAVAL ATTACHE TALKS INDICATE (REFTEL), YUGOSLAVS ARE NOW ON THE VERGE OF PURCHASING MARK 44 TORPEDO. IF IT COMES OFF THIS WILL BE FIRST ACTUAL TRANSFER OF MILITARY HARDWARE OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE SINCE USG COMMITMENT IN 1975. SALE IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE AS YUGOSLAVS UNCERTAIN WHETHER WE ARE SERIOUS OR NOT AND HAVE OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS RECEIVED WHAT FOR THEM MUST BE CONTRADICTORY SIGNALS. A MAJOR EFFORT BY STATE AND DEFENSE TO EXPEDITE AND FACILITATE THIS SALE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING THOSE HERE WHO WISH TO BALANCE SOVIET PRESENCE WITHIN YUGOSLAV MILITARY BY PURSUING AN AMERICAN OPTION AS WELL. CONVERSELY, DELAYS AND NON-FORTHCOMINGNESS ON MARK 44 FROM OUR SIDE WILL TEND TO CONVINCE PRESIDENT TITO, GENERAL LUBICIC AND OTHERS THAT THE USG IS IN FACT NOT SERIOUS ABOUT MILITARY-TO-MILITARY COOPERATION. THUS THE MARK 44 COULD IN ITS OWN WAY BE A WATERSHED IN THIS CRITICAL FIELD.

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2. ANCILLARY BENEFITS ALSO OF VALUE BEYOND SIGNIFICANCE OF MILLION DOLLAR SALE ITSELF, MARK 44 WILL INVOLVE YUGOSLAV MILITARY TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES AND U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE HERE. IT MAY FORESHADOW AS WELL FOLLOW-ON SALES OF MORE ADVANCED TORPEDOES. THUS IT WILL BE FOOT IN DOOR WHICH HAS BEEN CLOSED TO US FOR OVER A DECADE.

3. FINALLY, IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT NO WORD OF
THIS BUDDING COOPERATION LEAK OUT TO THE PRESS. AS
PRESIDENT TITO AND GENERAL LUBICIC STATED AND AS THE TOW
EXPERIENCE PROVED, ANY PUBLIC REFERENCE WILL BRING THIS
MOVEMENT TO A SCREECHING HALT.
YORK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, NAVAL SHIPS, TORPEDOES, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
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Subject: POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MARK 44 SALE TO YUGOSLAVIA
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